

09/830,939

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Claim 7 now read as follows.

7. (Three Times Amended) An optical fiber drawing furnace comprising a furnace core tube through which a fiber preform penetrates vertically, a heater disposed around said furnace core tube, and a preform container connected to an upper portion of said furnace core tube so as to be integral with said furnace core tube to form a semi-closed space opening in part at a lower end, for housing said fiber preform inside, said fiber drawing furnace further comprising:
an auxiliary heater disposed at an upper portion of said perform container;
cooling means for cooling the upper portion of said preform container; and
at least one temperature sensor for measuring an internal temperature in the upper portion of said preform container, wherein said cooling means includes a control unit for adjusting the cooling quantity, based on the temperature measured by said temperature sensor.